

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 36, claims 28 to 32, 35, and 37 to 53 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowed Claims

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 37 to 47 and 51 are allowed.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claims 36, 52, and 53. Regarding claim 36, the Examiner will note that claim 35 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 36 and that claims 52 and 53 have been rewritten herein in independent form. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 35, 52, and 53, as well as all claims that depend therefrom, are in condition for immediate allowance.

IV. Rejection of Claims 28 to 32, 35, and 48 to 50 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Regarding the rejection of claims 28 to 32, 35, and 48 to 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), while Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 35 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 36, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejection is moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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